

XIX. 1831—*Jahres-Bericht ueber das Clinische Chirurgisch-äugenärztliche Institut der Universität zu Berlin, abgestattet vom Director der genannten Anstalt* Dr. CARL FERDINAND VON GRAEFE, &c. Funfzehnte Folge, 4to. pp. 34. Berlin, 1832.

The Fifteenth Annual Report, for the year 1831, of the Clinico-Chirurgical and Ophthalmic Institute of the University of Berlin; Drawn up by Dr. C. F. VON GRAEFE.

The periodical reports of the different hospitals of Germany are in general prepared with a great deal of care, and present always highly interesting, often very valuable information, both of a statistical and practical character. It is much to be regretted that the medical gentlemen connected with the institutions for the reception of diseased persons in this country, are not more generally in the habit of presenting in a somewhat similar form, the statistics of those institutions, together with the general facts connected with the particular class of patients received into their wards, and with the results of the medical and surgical treatment to which they are subjected. In this manner, with a very slight addition to their ordinary duties, they would be able to contribute no inconsiderable amount of valuable practical information, which physicians less favourably situated are precluded from acquiring by their own experience.

We have before us the very able Annual Report of the Clinico-Chirurgical and Ophthalmic Institute attached to the University of Berlin, for 1831, drawn up by Dr. C. F. Von Graefe. This report, in addition to a copious table, accompanied with numerous remarks, of the different accidents and diseases treated in the institution, exhibiting their character and results, contains a list of the physicians and students who attended the clinic during the year, and a series of observations on various topics connected with the cases which fell under the observation of the author as director of the institution. The several sections into which these observations are divided, are as follows:—

1. A new method of arresting traumatic hæmorrhage. In this are presented some interesting results of Dr. Graefe's successful experiments in arresting the discharge of blood from wounded and divided arteries, by a fluid, the composition of which is unknown, and which was first employed by an Italian physician of the name of Binelli, in the year 1797.
2. A case of extensive aneurismal bronchocele occurring in a young soldier, and incapacitating him, from its bulk, and the impediment it occasioned to the freedom of respiration from performing his military duties, which was completely removed by tying both of the superior thyroïdal arteries.
3. A notice of the different modes of operating for cataract pursued in the Institute, and their general results.
4. Remarks on exarticulation by the linear and oval incision.
5. Remarks on Foot's operation for phymosis, which is preferred by the author.
6. A case of ramifying aneurism of the temporal artery, in a child of ten years of age, cured by an operation.
7. Case of ligature of the femoral artery.
8. Extirpation of the lower jaw.
9. Communications from Dr. Sat Desgallière.
10. Case of paralysis of the arm cured by frictions with ætherial spirits of ammonia and internally the Arnica blossoms.
11. Treatment of a general eruptive affection; and
12. On the sulphate of quinia as a preventive of cholera.

The whole number of patients treated in the Institute during the year 1821, was 1649, of which 422 laboured under diseases of the eye. Of these, 1300 were cured, and 16 died; 243 were removed to other institutions, and 90 remained under treatment at the close of the year. The number of operations performed was 416; of these 56 were upon the eye. The number of individuals who attended the Institute during the year was 287, including 136 practitioners.

D. F. C.

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XX. *De l'Operation du Trépan dans les Plaies de Tête.* Par A. A. M. L. VELPEAU, Chirurgien de l'Hopital de la Pitié. Paris, 1835. pp. 274. Octavo.

We have here another chirurgical treatise, upon a subject of great interest, from the prolific pen of M. Velpeau. There are few questions in surgery which have elicited more research or greater difference of opinion than that of the time and circumstances demanding the application of the trephine in injuries of the head; and perhaps no one has been loaded with more irrelevant matter in evidence, and more palpable non-sequiters in reasoning. In the work before us, there is an attempt to define the former and expose the latter, and although it must be confessed that the subject is handled with somewhat of the zeal and consequent prejudice of a partizan, we rise from its careful perusal with the impression that it is calculated to do much good, and no where more especially than in this country. It would be vain to attempt a detailed analysis of a volume nearly one-half of which consists of a rapid enumeration of facts and opinions arranged under a great variety of heads, and the great part of the remainder, of a concentrated critique upon the tenets of individuals and schools of high authority. We shall therefore confine ourselves to a very general notice of the arrangement of the work, with a passing commentary upon a few points of peculiar importance. After a very short historical coup-d'œil, the author proceeds, in the second or "dogmatical part," to notice, seriatim, all the varieties of traumatic injuries to which the head may be subjected, pointing out where he considers the trephine to be indicated or contra-indicated, illustrating his positions by many cases and numerous references to authorities.

Contusions without fracture of the cranium only demand the operation primarily when the pericranium and dura mater are both detached, or likely to become so, rendering necrosis of the bone almost inevitable. In fractures of the external table only, he recommends the removal of all detached fragments as the more advisable course. Even when the diploe is crushed by contusing forces, he does not inculcate the use of the trephine, unless urgent symptoms supervene, agreeing in this respect with Sir A. Cooper. In fractures of the internal table only, the diagnosis is very obscure, and M. Velpeau remarks that they only demand the early interference of the surgeon, when a blow, not followed by visible fracture, produces the symptoms of a foreign body in the cranium, in which cases the trephine should be employed without hesitation, under the expectation of discovering spicula perhaps penetrating the dura mater.

In fissure attended with internal extravasation, the plan strongly recommended by some surgeons, that of widening the crack by a wedge, is justly condemned, and if the opening is insufficient to give ready egress to the fluids the trephine is recommended at once, notwithstanding that in such accidents the